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WEST AFRICA.

LETTER FROM MR. WALKER, AUGUST 15, 1843.

Adverse Influences,—New Station.—MR. WALKER is one of the missionaries who lately removed from Cape Palmas to the Gaboon river, King George's town, where he has probably commenced a new station before this time, is on the south side of the river, about thirty miles from its mouth. Cape Lopez, which has been recently visited by Mr. Griswold, as mentioned below, is about seventy-five miles south of the Gaboon.

"We have again recently been over this field to see which will be the most suitable place for another station. Qua Ben's town is now entirely under the influence of the French, and a deplorable influence it is. They profess to have no Sabbath, and they live up to their profession most scrupulously. They are now erecting a large government school house, and will have teachers in great abundance. This I learned from the commodore himself a few days since. Mr. Griswold has visited Cape Lopez, and the slave interest is predominant there. The same is most emphatically true in King William's territories, on the other side of the river. The king receives a large revenue from the slave traders, and they tell him that they are ashamed when they see a respectable white man; they know their business to be infamous, and if we go there, they will not stay. The king loves money, but he says when he has enough, we may come.

"In view of all these circumstances, we have decided upon a station at King George's town; it is also decided that I shall go there. Mr. Wilson and myself have visited the place, and made arrangements for the necessary preparations. The people erect a building for a church and school house, and we pay for a dwelling house, which will probably cost about sixty-five or seventy dollars. The people are now very busy cutting their farms, and will be so engaged for about two weeks longer, when they will commence the erection of the buildings, and about

that time I intend to go there to remain permanently, I shall take one of the Cape Palmas boys to assist me as a teacher.

"Things remain here as usual. The people are all friendly, and the attendance upon our meetings continues as good as usual. But we do not yet hear any inquiring what they must do to be saved. We are still blessed with our usual health, and we are not discouraged in our work of breaking up the fallow ground and sowing the good seed. But we fear, from the last reports, that Christians in America are somewhat discouraged, and we cannot be indifferent in view of such a state of feeling. But our hope is in God, and he will do all things well."

From the same.

WESLEYAN MISSION IN GUINEA.

MESSRS. Freeman and De Graft, of the (English) Wesleyan Missionary Society, have recently commenced a station at Badagry, in the Bight of Benin, Western Africa. This place has heretofore been known as the seat of the most sanguinary superstition and the scene of the worst atrocities of the slave trade. In consequence of the jealousy with which Europeans were formerly regarded, Lander was here compelled to drink the poisonous fetish draught. A number of the inhabitants of this region, having been sold into slavery, were recaptured by British cruisers and carried into Sierra Leone. There they became acquainted with Christianity and Christian missionaries; and since their return to Badagry, they have prepared the way for missionary operations among their own people.

The establishment of this mission has led to the exploration of the interior. Having made the necessary arrangements at Badagry, Mr. Freeman set out for Abbekuta, or Understone, on the 5th of December, 1842. This place is about one hundred miles from Badagry, in a northerly direction. It has a population which he estimates at 40,000 to 50,000. Clapperton makes no mention of such a town; indeed, it does not appear to have been previously visited by any European. Mr. Freeman's account of his entry into Understone and his description of the place itself will be given in his own language.

"*Visit to Understone—Reception by the King.* Dec. 11.—Some horsemen arrived to conduct us to the capitol, and we resumed our journey. In half an hour we reached the outskirts of the town, after crossing the Ogu, a considerable river, about seventy yards wide, running south-south-west, and falling into the sea at Lagos, about thirty miles below Badagry. As we entered the town, I found it to be a much larger place than I had expected, though I was prepared to see something extensive. The streets were lined with the natives, collected together in great numbers to witness the scene of an English missionary visiting Understone. They testified their pleasure and satisfaction by the constant cry of 'Aku! Welcome!' We passed through several streets, very narrow and confined; and reached the king's residence, nearly in the centre of the town. We rode on horseback into a large court-yard, surrounded with houses having clay walls, from six to ten feet high, with sloping thatched roofs extending from six to ten or twelve feet over the walls, and reaching to within three feet of the ground, forming a kind of verandah, with an earthen floor raised from six to eighteen inches above the level of the ground. Under a large verandah of the above-mentioned description, Sodeke was seated, surrounded by many of his people. We alighted from our horses and paid our respects to him. He bade us wel-

come to Understone, and expressed his great satisfaction at my paying him a visit. He was seated on the floor, on a large native mat, supporting himself against a beautiful leather-covered cushion of native manufacture. He wore a handsome damask cloth thrown lightly over his shoulder, and a scarlet cloth cap, with a large blue tassel on the crown of it. Before him stood a large glass bowl, of European manufacture, well supplied with gora nuts. Seats were placed for us in the yard, close to the verandah; and we rested ourselves for a short time, and then repaired to our own quarters. The scenes which I have witnessed this morning will never be erased from my memory. Among the horsemen who came to Okwaru, to conduct us to Understone, were several of the Christian emigrants from Sierra Leone. After a long absence from their fatherland, they had returned, bringing the grace of God in their hearts; and had for some time been anxiously looking for a visit from a Christian missionary. I shall never forget the joy which beamed in their countenances as they seized me by the hand, and bade me welcome. 'Ah!' said they, in the course of our conversation, 'we told our king that the English people loved us, and that missionaries would be sure to follow us to Understone; but he could hardly believe that any one would come so very far away to do us good. Now,' said they, 'what we told our king, is really come to pass. Oh, master! you are welcome, welcome, welcome!'

"Sodeke seemed quite overjoyed; and as we were walking across the court-yard to our own quarters, he clasped me in his arms before all the people, and thus testified his extreme satisfaction. Shortly afterward he came to our quarters, and talked with me for some time in a very free and familiar manner. 'My people,' said he, 'told me they were sure their friends in England would not neglect them; but I feared you would not venture to come so far. Now I see you, and my heart rejoices: and as you have now come to visit us, I hope the English will never leave us.' Thus did this noble spirited chieftain pour out the warm effusions of his heart. My feelings were of the most intense character. I saw in Sodeke's open and manly countenance something which gave the seal of truth to all that he said. His remarks were not vain empty compliments; but I believe they came from his heart, and were spoken in sincerity and truth."

"*First Religious Service at Understone.*—In the afternoon we held a public prayer-meeting in the court-yard. We placed our little traveling-table opposite to the king's verandah; and, to my astonishment, Sodeke came out and seated himself by me at the table. Nearly all the Christian emigrants were present, dressed in European clothes; and we had an interesting service. I gave a brief address, which was explained to the king in the vernacular tongue; and every thing passed off very much to my satisfaction. The child-like simplicity of Sodeke, a powerful king reigning over a numerous people, is truly astonishing. To view him as a party in the scene already described, and then to remember that this scene took place in the midst of his capital, where he is surrounded by at least fifty thousand of his people, one cannot cease to admire his truly noble spirit.

"This beautiful scene, and these pleasing prospects, are chiefly the results of missionary enterprise, in seconding the efforts of the British

government to suppress slavery. These Christian emigrants have acted the part of the little Israelitish maid, in the history of Naaman, the Syrian. They have brought with them a good report of the God of Israel; and the happy effects are strikingly visible."

"*Description of Understone*—Dec. 12.—We walked out to see part of the town. Abbekuta, or Understone, is by far the largest town that I have seen in Africa; from what I can judge, I think it is nearly, or quite as large again as Coomassie. The houses are all constructed on the same plan as the king's house, already described, with the exception of their being smaller. There is no order or regularity in the streets; the houses are built without any attention to beauty or uniformity. In this respect, there is no comparison between Understone and Coomassie—Coomassie being so far superior; but Understone is capable of very great improvement. The beautiful hills and vales which the site occupies, and the noble blocks of granite rising above the houses in every direction, give it an appearance bold, romantic and beautiful. Every principal street seems to be of itself a market-place, in which many native productions are exhibited for sale, such as rich cotton cloths, Moorish caps, gunpowder, knives, cutlasses of native manufacture, bowls, dishes, calabashes, reels of cotton, rope, and line of various sizes; fresh meat, beef, pork, and mutton, rats, (of which the natives seem very fond,) ready-made soup, palm-oil, palm-wine, a kind of beer made from the maize, some from millet, plantains, bananas, pine-apples, papaws, limes, oranges, ground-nuts, corn, yams raw and ready-cooked, kidney-beans, sweet-potatoes, roll-tobacco, and many other things."

"*Influence of Sierra Leone on the Interior*—Dec 16.—I met all the principal men among the emigrants from Sierra Leone, and had a long conversation with them respecting their proceedings and circumstances since they left Sierra Leone. The following is the information which I received from them.

"About three years ago, the first emigrants landed at Badagry and Lagos. The people of Badagry received them kindly, and allowed them quietly to pass through into their native towns and villages. Not so the people of Lagos; instead of following the example of the Badagry people, they laid violent hands on the property of the emigrants, and, in many cases, deprived them of every thing except the clothes which they wore. Even the chief of Lagos, who is since dead, did not scruple to violate all the principles of humanity, by taking from some of the emigrants every thing but the clothes on their backs; deprived them, by force, of all their little savings, with which they intended to greet their long lost families on their return to their father-land; and had the cruelty to tell them that they might think themselves well off, and be well satisfied that they were allowed in this sordid and helpless manner to proceed into the interior. I heard of this, by report, at Badagry; and to-day, the sufferers themselves have confirmed all that I have previously learnt. Out of about two hundred and sixty-five emigrants, the passengers of three vessels, who landed at Lagos, it seems that not one of them escaped with any of their property, save the clothes in which they were clad.

"In this distressed state, many of them had to travel four long days' journey into the interior, before they could reach their families; and when they did at last gaze on their native rocks at Understone, instead of

appearing before their friends in that respectable manner in which the benevolent government which had saved them from the iron grasp of slavery, desired they should appear, they stood at the entrance of their native dwellings, without a farthing to purchase bread for the day.

“Altogether from two hundred to three hundred emigrants have landed at Badagry during the past three years; and have, with their property, passed safely on to their native homes. This is a pleasing fact, which stands in striking contrast with the conduct of the people of Lagos. Sodeke, the king of the Akus, has manifested a truly noble spirit. He has received his long lost people very kindly; makes a striking difference between them and their countrymen in general, by allowing them to approach him on their feet, standing, (the national custom requiring the people to prostrate themselves,) and by encouraging all of them, both men and women, to wear European clothes, and to persevere in those European manners and customs which they have brought with them from Sierra Leone. He is pleased with their appearance and conduct, and wishes all his subjects to follow their example. This is honorable to both parties; and will surely be gratifying news for the British government, and all those who are interested in the regeneration of Africa.

“Those emigrants who have some knowledge of any mechanical profession or business have endeavored to work at their respective trades and calling whenever an opportunity has offered itself; but as such opportunities have been somewhat rare, they have chiefly employed themselves in trading and agricultural pursuits, such as the cultivation of corn, yams, cotton, etc. Coffee is not known here; and perhaps the distance from the coast is too great to render it a profitable article of culture for exportation. Cotton is in considerable demand in the native markets.”

“*Further Intercourse with Sodeke—Dec. 17.*—I had some conversation with Sodeke on subjects connected with geography and astronomy; and explained to him the use of a pocket-sextant which he saw me using. I succeeded in getting him to observe the sun on an artificial horizon brought down to an arc of ninety degrees; and he appeared very much astonished and delighted.

“*Dec. 18.*—Sodeke and a few members of his family, and the principal men among the emigrants, dined with me. We fixed a temporary table under the shed in Sodeke’s yard, and all things passed off very well indeed. Our party amounted, to the best of my recollection, to about twenty-five persons. Sodeke seemed very much delighted; it was the first time that he had ever eaten food after the manner and custom of Europeans.”

MR. FREEMAN’S VISIT TO DAHOMI—INTRODUCTION TO THE KING.—The commencement of the mission at Badagry has opened the way for friendly intercourse with Dahomi. Knowing the character of its sovereign, and apprehensive that the operations of himself and Mr. De Graft at Badagry might be interrupted by his interference, Mr. Freeman determined to see him, if possible, for the purpose of securing his acquiescence in their plans. This enterprising missionary returned from Understone on the 24th of December; on the 27th of the same month he sailed for Whydah—which is about fifty miles west of Badagry—and arrived there on the 31st. On the 6th of January, he set out for Abomi, the capitol of Dahomi. On the 10th of the same month he arrived at Kanna, where the king was then staying.

"Jan. 12.—About 11 A. M. the king sent messengers to inform me that he was ready to see me; and I proceeded to the royal residence, accompanied by my interpreters and a few of my people. When we arrived at the gate, we found Mewo outside, under his umbrella, smoking his pipe and waiting to receive us. After I had been seated a short time under one of the banyan trees, Mewo went into the king; and a messenger came, requesting me to proceed. We passed through the gate, and entered into a large enclosed yard, from eighty to ninety yards square; and I again took my seat under the shade of a tree to await another invitation.

"In three or four minutes the messenger returned, requesting me again to proceed. We then advanced toward another gate on the opposite side, the messengers continually saying in a low voice, in the native tongue. 'May we come? May we come?' as they walked along in a stooping position. We then passed through the gate, and entered another yard about the same size as the other; and, on the opposite side under a thatched verandah of considerable dimensions, sat His Majesty Guzzu, King of Dahomi, surrounded by a great number of ladies of his household, and several hundreds of female soldiers armed with muskets and cutlasses, doing duty as his body guard. The rude verandah seemed to be decorated for the occasion with pieces of damask and handsome cloths of native manufacture bound round the pillars. The king was seated on an European chair, covered with a cloth; and before him was placed a small European table, containing several decanters filled with different kinds of liquor, and several tumblers and wine-glasses, and a supply of water. As we approached nearer and nearer, the messengers prostrated themselves on their hands and knees; and in this posture advanced several yards, until they came close to the place where the king was seated. They then threw dust on their heads, and prostrated themselves, touching the dust with their fore heads, chins, and cheek-bones. Mewo and Kabada were kneeling on the ground close opposite the king. The king rose from his seat to receive me, as I entered the verandah, took me very cordially by the hand, and bade me welcome to Dahomi. My traveling camp stool was then placed on the other side of the table directly opposite the king, and I was requested to sit down. His Majesty also seated himself, and seemed pleased to see me.

"After asking me how I liked my journey, and giving me an opportunity of letting him know what I thought of the country through which I had passed, he asked me to drink with him; and while I was doing so, I heard heavy guns firing at a short distance from the place where we were seated; and was informed by the king that he was firing a salute in honor of the queen of England. When twenty-one guns had been fired, he showed me in his hand twenty-one cowrie shells, and said they were equal in number to the guns he had fired in honor of the queen of England. I of course returned thanks. He then fired a salute of nine guns, to welcome me to Kanna. To object to this would, in such a case, have been wrong, as he would not have understood my motive for so doing; and I therefore endeavored to put a good face on it, and thanked him for his kindness."

"*Conversation with the King.* We then entered into conversation; and I explained to him the real object of my visit, and went at length into the subject of the Badagry mission; acquainting him with our objects and intentions, contradicting the false rumor respecting our building a fort at

Badagry, and assuring him that our operations there were of a strictly religious, and not of a political nature. He seemed very well satisfied with the explanations I gave; and immediately said, "Cannot you do something at Whydah also?" To which I answered, "My particular business with your Majesty is concerning our mission at Badagry; but if you wish us to commence a mission at Whydah, we will try, and attend to your request as early as possible." In answer to which, he said he wished us to do so.

"I then spoke to him of the anxiety manifested by Her Majesty the queen of England, and her people, to do good to Africa by every possible means. Referring again to the Badagry mission, I stated that a great number of Aku people, who had been taken from slave-ships by British cruisers, had been landed at Sierra Leone, where they had lived many years under the protection of the British government; that they had expressed a wish to return to their native land; that they had done so; and that, as many of them had been under the instruction of English missionaries at Sierra Leone, I had, while at Cape Coast, received instructions to proceed to Badagry, and try to make some arrangement for their being taken care of; but that we did not wish to confine our operations to Badagry, or any particular place, but to act as the friends of all. I further stated that we recently had commenced a mission in Ashantee, and had very great demands for missionaries all around us at Cape Coast; but, notwithstanding, I was sure that every effort would be made in England to do something for Whydah. I also added, that the queen of England had been recently turning her attention very much toward Africa; and several times the question had lately been asked, 'What can be done for the good of Africa?' that measures was now being adopted for promoting the benevolent object; and I thought it probable, that the queen of England would soon send to him about the re-occupying of the English fort at Whydah, and opening friendly communications with him. He was evidently highly pleased with what I said; and replied, 'I hope the queen will send to me, and send a governor for the fort directly.'" I then acquainted him with my extreme anxiety to return to the coast without delay, on account of my long absence from Cape Coast, where business of a very pressing nature demanded my speedy return; and he assured me that he would not detain me, but make me ready very soon. Our long interview was then brought to a close; and he rose up and accompanied me across the two yards, and out at the door into the area in front of the gate. On our arrival outside the gate, accompanied by several hundred female soldiers, the king ordered them to fire their muskets and blunderbusses; thus I was taken unawares with more firing for about from ten to twenty minutes. I was sorry it took place on the Sabbath; but I could not hinder it. This little brigade of soldiers presented a very singular appearance. They were dressed so much like men, that a stranger would not have supposed that they were women. The king's soldiers wear a loose shirt without sleeves, which comes nearly down to their knees, and is fastened round the waist by their cartouch belt; a musket, a small heavy cutlass, and a poniard, complete their armor. The brigade of women fired their muskets and blunderbusses remarkably well.

"The interpreter and messenger having intimated to me that I could see Abomi if I wished, I told the king, before we broke up our conference,

that I should like to see Abomi; and he seemed pleased, and readily consented to it. Arrangements were consequently made for my visiting Abomi, on Tuesday next.

“The king of Dahomi is a man of fine personal appearance, about six feet high, and rather stout, but not at all corpulent. His countenance is open and manly, and he appears to be of a very mild and pacific disposition.”

“*Second interview with the King.*—Jan. 13.—I visited the king again. I found him prepared to receive me in the same place where I met him yesterday; but as our interview was strictly private he had only two or three attendants present.

“During this interview, I went again over the same subject on which we conversed yesterday; and I had thus a second opportunity of bringing missionary operations before him. Lest I should be mistaken as to his remarks yesterday concerning a mission at Whydah, I determined to make sure by referring again to that particular; and asked him if he really wished us to commence a mission at Whydah; to which question he freely answered, ‘Yes;’ and thus removed all doubt from my mind. He also said that he would be glad for the missionary who may reside at Whydah to pay him a visit once a year in Abomi.”

“*Visit to Abomi.*—Jan. 14—Mewo arrived at my quarters, and joined my house-master Kabada to take me to Abomi. Their people, amounting to from two hundred to three hundred, with their native drums and other instruments of music, their banners and large umbrellas, with Kabada, started first and led the way; Mewo went next; and I, with every one of my carriers, followed in the rear. Both Mewo and Kabada rode on their mules. We proceeded on a fine level road, varying in breadth from ten to forty feet. When we had gone about two miles and a half, we passed one of the king’s fetish-houses; and a fetish-man came forward and pronounced a blessing, and begged of the fetish a safe journey for us to Abomi. Though I pitied the people for their superstitions, yet I could not help admiring their apparent sincerity. Having stopped here for two or three seconds, we again proceeded over a fine open country, flat, but still interesting. The two greatest ornaments of these pretty sylvan scenes are the monkeys, bread-tree, and the locust-tree. The Guinea-peach, with its beautiful globular blossoms, is another ornament of this part of Africa. The palm tree is also seen luxuriating in great abundance. The natives use the pulp of the nut for oil and soup; but the use of palm-wine is prohibited by the king. On inquiring into the cause of this prohibition, I was informed that many of the natives had used it to very great excess, and had become noisy and riotous in their houses; the king had therefore prohibited the use of the wine, to check this growing evil. After proceeding on the Abomi path about six miles, we turned to the left, and proceeded to Coomassie, the king’s new palace, situated about two miles from Abomi. On our arrival at the palace, several chiefs were seated at the gate to receive us; and after having gone through the usual ceremonies of reception, I passed into the large court-yard, and saw some part of the interior of the royal palace. The king being from home, I did not see the rooms of the palace; but the interior has a very respectable appearance. It is built in the European style, and appears strong and durable. The materials are a red clay. The roof is thatched with grass. The house has one very large

wing, which seems to contain some of the principal apartments. While I was seated in the interior court-yard, at a small table covered with some refreshments, the king's wives, residing at Coomassie, sent an abundant supply of food for my people, and sat at a distance as spectators, while I was taking a rough sketch of the premises.

"From Comassie we then proceeded to Abomi. Soon after, we reached Kabada's house in Abomi, and stopped to lunch and refresh the people. An abundant supply of native provisions, ready prepared for my people, with soup and stews, etc., for myself, were sent over from Kanna, a distance of about eight miles, by order of the king; and after resting about an hour and a half, during the heat of the day, we proceeded to Adangerakadi, the king's palace in Abomi. The entrance and the area in front of it were like all the others I have seen; but Adangerakadi is a larger house than any of the others. After going through the usual form I passed into the interior yard, saw some of the king's wives, and was treated in the same manner as at Coomassie. In the yard I saw suspended from a tree, or from some sticks, (I forget which,) from twenty to thirty pairs of Moorish stirrup-irons, trophies taken in some former engagement with the Akus, or perhaps some of the Moorish tribes immediately behind Dahomi. On leaving the palace I was introduced to all the members of the king's household as the English fetish-man, the king of Dahomi's friend. The whole premises of Adangerakadi are very extensive, and all enclosed within a clay wall from three to four feet thick, and about twelve or fourteen feet high. The area within must be at least from six to ten acres. As we passed along outside the walls, I saw that they were decorated with human skulls, stuck on small sticks. The sticks were about fifteen inches high above the tops of the walls, and placed at regular distances from each other all around the premises. I should say that the distance from stick to stick, and consequently from skull to skull, would be about from twenty to thirty feet.

"From Adangerakadi we went to visit the king's mother. The walls, from top to bottom, on either side of the door leading to one part of the royal premises which we passed, were decorated with a vertical row of human skull-bones, built into the clay, with the faces outward, level with the wall. After visiting the king's mother, we went to Mewo's house, and rested ourselves. All the great chiefs, and many others have both town and country houses. On entering Mewo's premises, I was conducted to a small table in a court yard, where Mewo joined me, and refreshed me with some cherry-brandy and water. After resting ourselves for some time, we started about seven o'clock in the evening, on our way back to Kanna. Just as we were leaving the outskirts of Abomi, Kabadi, who was again leading the way, stopped, and again directed my attention to a number of guns, some brass, some iron, some of heavy, some of light calibre. There were altogether thirty in number; one, I think the largest, of brass, had been taken from Badagry, many years back; others had been obtained, in all probability, from vessels on the coast. Under the beautifully soft shades of the evening, we then proceeded on our way back to Kanna. It was a splendid evening. The locust-tree, and the different varieties of mimosa and acacia, in some places lined the road."

"*Description of Abomi.*—Abomi is a large town; but, from the peculiar manner in which the people build, there is nothing in the appearance of the houses and streets particularly striking. The houses of all the chiefs

and captains are enclosed within high walls; so that, in passing through many of the streets, nothing can be seen but heavy clay walls on either side. In size, I should think it nearly, or quite equal to Coomassie; and perhaps the population about the same in number. The soil is red clay, mixed with sand; and, generally speaking, quite free from stones. There is, however, some granite somewhere in the neighborhood; for on my way up to Kanna, from Whydah, I met a man carrying on his head a large piece of granite, about sixty pound weight, which I understood he was taking to Whydah for sale. The most striking objects in Abomi, next to the royal premises, are many splendid specimens of the Baabah. In almost every street, and at almost every turning, these vegetable monsters may be seen rising above the walls and houses."

ENGLISH CHURCH MISSION IN GUINEA.

Mr. Townsend's visit to Understone.—It was stated on a previous page, that a number of Africans from the vicinity of Badagry, who had been sold into slavery, had been recaptured by the British cruisers, and carried into Sierra Leone; and that they there became acquainted with Christianity and Christian missionaries. Some of them were unwilling to return to their native country, unaccompanied by a religious teacher. Mr. Townsend, a catechist of the Church Missionary Society, was accordingly deputed to visit this part of Africa, and ascertain what encouragement there might be for the establishment of a mission. He landed at Badagry on the 19th December, 1842; having made the necessary arrangements, he set out for Understone, where he arrived in safety on the 4th of January. As he entered the town, "the doorways of the houses and the corners of the streets were filled with eager spectators, who all endeavored to show the liveliest joy, and shouted, 'How do you do, white man? How do you do, you that are coming?'" Having reached the king's residence, Mr. Townsend found him very cordial and friendly. The reader will not fail to notice, with surprise and gratification, the fact that the missionaries of two different societies have simultaneously visited this benighted portion of the earth for the purpose of carrying thither the blessings of the gospel.

"*Jan. 6.*—In the afternoon, Sodeke sent for me, to write a letter to His Excellency, the Governor of Sierra Leone, which I did. I was highly gratified with the sentiment which he wished to express. He wanted to express his thankfulness to the British government for what it had done for his people, and his own convictions that they were seeking the happiness and welfare of the African race. Also, that he had determined to suppress all slave trade in his own country, and in the neighboring parts, so far as his influence extends. Further, his desire for the return of his people, and that white men, both missionaries and merchants, might settle in his country. After having finished his letter, I asked, if missionaries were to be sent to Abbekuta, whether he would give them children to teach. 'Yes,' he said, 'more than you would be able to manage;' and also, 'If you will stop a few days more than you state you purpose doing, I will give you any spot of ground you may select, on which to build a school house.' I was obliged to decline his offer, as my instructions did not sanction my contracting any engagement to commence a mission. I also asked him if he would receive a native, should one be sent as a school-master. He replied, 'Yes; and I would help him to build his house.' He also told me, in answer to my inquiries respecting it, that it was unlawful for any chief to sell a domestic slave; and any one found doing so would be punished.

"The disposition of this chief seems to differ from many, indeed all, of whom I have heard; in that he is easy of access; and whatever question I have asked him, he has answered readily, without any apparent attempt to disguise. He is certainly desirous of getting Englishmen to reside in his country, and of an alliance with the English government. These things indicate, on his part, a liberal mind; and on the part of Providence, an opening for the spread of the gospel. Can it be that this chief, whose country is open and easy of access, shall express his desire for the instruction of his children and people, and for the abolition of slavery, and British Christians not respond to his desire, after the evidence they have given of their anxiety for the welfare of Africa, by sparing no expense and by fearing no danger to accomplish their benevolent purposes? I feel it must not be doubted, that, as soon as the desires of this chief shall be known, his wishes will be readily fulfilled."

"*Observance of the Sabbath at Abbekuta.*—Jan. 7.—In the afternoon, I held service under a shed in the king's court. When all were assembled, and was ready to commence, I sent to inform the king of it. He then came; and, on a mat spread for him, sat during the whole of the service. I explained to the people, through my interpreter, A. Wilhelm, the parable of the marriage-feast. While doing so, I was forcibly reminded of the goodness of God toward the Sierra Leone people who were present; and asked if there were not many who had before had opportunities of hearing the gospel, but who had despised them; and had not only despised them, but had left the country where God was known, for this where God was not known, thus turning their backs upon the favors and privileges which God had bestowed on them. I then remarked that God, notwithstanding, in mercy had followed them, and again invited them to the gospel-feast. Near the conclusion of my address, Sodeke exclaimed, 'Yes! yes!' to the following observations, which I addressed to those who had been members of a Christian church in Sierra Leone. I told them if they continued in the ways of godliness, as they had been taught out of the Word of God, they would be received into heaven; but if they should yield to the examples of the heathen around them, or listen to the heathenish counsel of their friends and country-people, and so be drawn aside from the truth to follow the sinful practices of the heathens, and thus *deny the Lord that bought them*, there would be nothing for them to expect in this world but the stings of a guilty conscience, and in the world to come the everlasting wrath of the Almighty. I had been told that Sodeke wished the Sierra Leone people to follow the religion and the customs of the white people, as they had been taught in Sierra Leone; but I felt exceedingly glad to hear this confirmed from his own mouth. What an opening does this country present for the spread of the everlasting gospel! What opportunities for usefulness will be lost if the present time be not embraced!

"Jan. 10.—Sodeke has shown the greatest attention to the Sierra Leone people, and has given them greater access to his person than any others of the same rank. The liberality of his disposition is shown, in a very prominent manner, by the fact that he requires no greater act of homage from them than they were accustomed to pay to their superiors in Sierra Leone. It is the custom of the Akus, when they come into the presence of their chief, to prostrate themselves before him; none omit this act of homage. But Sodeke, hearing that white people never rendered so great an act of

homage to any but God, forbade them to do so to himself. I have often heard of Sodeke in Sierra Leone, and was prepared to see in him a chief of superior character and ability; and my intercourse with him during the past week has increased this good impression. He is tall and sufficiently bulky for his age (I should suppose forty-five or fifty) and height; his countenance is mild and pleasing, but indicates ability; his voice soft, and his speech slow. The Akus are generally remarkable for boisterous speech, and much action when speaking. I never saw him in anger, or in any way excited. The laws of the country are particularly severe against theft—in some cases, death is the penalty; and, consequently, property is secure. I am not aware of having lost any thing since I left Badagry."

In a letter to the Sierra Leone Committee under date of May 31st, Mr. Townsend says that he considers Understone as safe a residence for a missionary as any place which is not under a civilized government. "The town is the whole strength of the Egba tribe united, acting upon the principle that union is strength. They were attacked, about ten years ago, by the people of Ilorni; but being able to repel their assailants, a peace was brought about between them, and they have since remained unmolested." In respect to the healthiness of the country he writes as follows:

"I am led to believe, from the general aspect of the country, from the absence of the diseases, sores, and ulcers, to which the Negroes in Sierra Leone are very subject, and from the great age which many appear to attain, that the country is far more healthy than Sierra Leone. The country around Abbekuta is, as far as I could discover, free from marshes. The river Ogu, which flows by it, has a rocky and sandy bed, and is free from any thing likely to create miasma."

The reader may wish to obtain some information respecting the previous history of the king of Understone.

"Sodeke obtained his present pre-eminence by superior courage and success in war; which, from the difficulties into which the Egba people were brought by the attacks so frequently made on them by bands of men-stealers, became qualities of great worth; and the conduct of Sodeke seems to have been such as to prove him to be a superior character among them. Although he exercises the power of a king, and must be virtually so, yet they do not give him the title, Allaki, which belongs to their kings. There is a son of their late Allaki, living at Badagry, who is quite a youth; but they seem to pay no regard to him.

"That there is a wide field opened by Providence for the extension of the kingdom of Christ among this people I think cannot be reasonably doubted. Sodeke and the whole body of the people, are looking toward us for help."

From the Religious Herald.

INTERESTING SCHOOL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

We have seen nothing more interesting on elementary instruction, than the following speech of Rev. Dr. Philip, at a public meeting in Capetown, in June last, reported by the South African Advertiser. Dr. P. had recently made an excursion to some of the missionary stations. He says,

"Among the facts that came under my observation in my late journey, nothing excited more surprise than the state in which I found education at the missionary stations in the Griqua and Bechuana country. I was

pleased with the progress education had made at all the places I had previously visited on my way to that country, but there was something so unexpected, so novel, in the aspects under which I saw it advancing among the Bechuanas, as to invest it with a more deep and tender interest than usual. After having crossed Glisson's drift, about ninety or one hundred miles east of Colesbergh and after traveling nearly two days in a north-easterly direction, I came to Beersheba, a French Missionary station in the Basuto country, under the superintendence of Mr. Rolland. After having visited the mission premises, the printing office, and some parts of the village, I requested Mr. R. to show me his schools.

"The school house is built in the form of a cross, its walls are of wattle and dab, it will hold about three hundred. Outside and near the school-house I observed five or six batches of natives, from eight to twelve persons each, busy with their lessons. On entering the school-house, I observed that it contained no forms nor benches; that the people were all seated upon the ground in classes, with their monitors; that the only space left unoccupied was a path through the centre of the school; that the learners consisted of all the intermediate ages, from six years of age to sixty, and that I had never witnessed any school more attentive to their lessons or more eager to be taught. I did not at the time form an estimate of the proportion there might be between the sexes, but I observed a number of men and boys present, and that they occupied places separate from the females. Among those that manifested the greatest eagerness to be taught, I observed a number of young women with children at their breasts, and who would not allow them to be an excuse for absenting themselves from schools. One of these mothers I observed on entering the school, sitting with her back to a pillar, with a child in her arms, which appeared to be from four to five months old, and she so intent on a book that she held in the hand that was not occupied with the child, that, though I stood before, and passed and repassed her several times, I never observed her lift her eyes once from her book so as to notice me. About an hour and a half afterwards, when I again visited the school, having retired from it during that space of time, I found this young woman exactly in the same position, with her child leaning on her left arm, while her attention was still riveted to the book, which she continued to hold in her right hand, and with which she was now and then patting the child, without allowing her eyes to be diverted for a single moment from the letters or words on which they were fixed.

"The only piece of furniture I saw in the place was something like a desk, that might have been originally used for a pulpit, or by any one who might have had the superintendence of the school, and before it, and in the centre of the building, there was a small space occupied by a few infants, who had been placed there by their mothers, who were attending to their lessons, and left to take care of themselves.

"While a few of the groups in the school were reading in the small books, and in portions of the Scriptures, others of them were eagerly engaged in decyphering manuscripts, from which their printed lessons had been taken.

"The school is opened at ten o'clock, and such as attend it can, if they please, remain till it closes in the afternoon; but no constraint is employed, or is necessary to secure their attendance. They come and go at any hour

they please, and whether they continue a shorter or a longer time in the school no one finds fault with them. The desire of being able to read appears to have all the strength of a passion with them, and all present appear to be as much interested in the work of the school, as the persons who are in the habit of attending 'Change in London are interested about the price of stock. All is activity and bustle; but as all appear to be under the influence of one spirit, they do not stand in each other's way, and the zeal of each individual adds to the interest and to the happiness of the whole. They keep coming and going from ten to four o'clock in the afternoon, and the attendance is often crowded during that period, and is always good. No one appeared to be looking after them, and yet they seemed to be cared for; no one appeared to be employed to keep order among them, and yet nothing appeared to call for any foreign interference. I saw no one urge upon them attention to their lessons, yet there was no want of attention, yet every one in the school took and kept his proper place; they appeared to be subject to no control, every one being left to do as he pleased, yet every one appeared as if he had been led by instinct to do what was right; no ensign of authority was to be seen, yet every thing was in its place, and there was a place for every thing. The very infants in the centre of the school, though too young to be taught letters, had caught so much of the joyous spirit of the animated scene which surrounded them, that they appeared not to require any superintendence. The master was invisible, yet nothing appeared to be wanting to secure attention, maintain government, and to stimulate to diligence.

Gazing with surprise on the grotesque and novel exhibition before me, I asked Mr. Rolland, with some degree of impatience, where is the master? His reply was, we have no master. How then are they taught? was the next question; and his rejoinder was, they teach one another. In order to explain what appeared to me to be involved in so much mystery, it is necessary only to say, that the excellent missionary and his wife understood the Infant-school system, and had introduced it among this people at the introduction of their mission among them.

Their first object was to solicit children, or young people of the most promising talent and dispositions, to bestow upon them all the time and labor they could devote to them, and when they had qualified them to be monitors, they employed them in teaching others what they themselves knew. In this way, a taste for reading, and the art of reading itself, have been readily diffused over this part of the country, under the influence of the missions. There is nothing so much valued by this people as a book; there is nothing they take so much pleasure in as in reading; there is nothing they are more thankful for than a lesson; all their leisure time is devoted to their books; however, their heads may be occupied, their books have the first place in their hearts; wherever they go they carry their books with them, and if you see them in parties about their houses, or in their fields, it will almost invariably be found that they are employed in reading, or in teaching one another to read.

If the most interesting spectacle to the philosopher is to see the wild boy in the wood conning over his letters, with what feelings should we regard the man who could regard with indifference the spectacle of a people, who, little more than seven years ago, were in a state of cannibalism, manifest-

ing a taste for reading and teaching one another to read, after a manner, and with a measure of success, of which it will be difficult to find many parallels in the history of civilization.

From the New York Observer.

NEW SLAVE TRADE HORRORS.

A recent London paper now before us gives extracts from a work entitled, "Fifty days on board a Slave Vessel," by the Rev. PASCOE GREENFELL HILL. Mr. Hill was the chaplain of Her Majesty's ship the *Cleopatra*, cruising off the Mozambique coast. In the month of April last, she captured a slaver called the *Progreso*, of 140 tons; the length of the slave-deck being 37 feet, its breadth $21\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and its height $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet. She had on board 447 slaves. A prize crew was put on board, and Mr. Hill volunteered his services as an interpreter on the voyage to the Cape. We will not be charged with coloring the picture, and therefore will give the narrative of the two first days in the words of Mr. Hill himself:

"During the first watch, our breeze was light and variable, the water smooth, the recently liberated negroes sleeping, or lying in quietness about the deck. Their slender supple limbs entwine in a surprisingly small compass; and they resembled, in the moonlight, confused piles of arms and legs, rather than distinct human forms. They were, however, apparently at ease, and all seemed going on as fairly as could be desired. But the scene was soon to undergo a great and terrible change. About one hour after midnight, the sky began to gather clouds, and a haze overspread the horizon to windward. A squall approached, of which I and others which had lain down on the deck, received warning by a few heavy drops of rain. Then ensued a scene the horrors of which it is impossible to depict. The hands having to shorten sails suddenly, uncertain as to the force of the squall, found the poor helpless creatures lying about the deck an obstruction to getting at the ropes and doing what was required. This caused the order to send them all below, which was immediately obeyed. The night, however, being intensely hot and close, 400 wretched beings thus crammed into a hole 12 yards in length, 7 in breadth, and only $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height, speedily began to make an effort to re-issue to the open air. Being thrust back, and striving the more to get out, the after-hatch was forced down on them. Over the other hatchway, in the fore part of the vessel, a wooden grating was fastened. To this, the sole inlet for the air, the suffocating heat of the hold, and, perhaps, panic from the strangeness of their situation, made them press; and thus great part of the space below was rendered useless. They crowded to the grating, and, clinging to it, for air, completely barred its entrance. They strove to force their way through apertures, in length 14 inches, and barely 6 inches in breadth, and in some instances, succeeded. The cries, the heat,—I may say, without exaggeration, 'the smoke of their torment,—which ascended, can be compared to nothing earthly. One of the Spaniards gave warning that the consequence would be many deaths'—*Manana habra muchos muertos.*

"*Thursday, April 13th (Holy Thursday.)* The Spaniard's prediction of last night, this morning was fearfully verified. Fifty-four crushed and mangled corpses lifted up from the slave-deck have been brought to the gang-way and thrown overboard. Some were emaciated from disease: many bruised and bloody. Antonio tells me that some were found

strangled, their hands still grasping each other's throats, and tongues protruding from their mouths. The bowels of one were crushed out. They had been trampled to death for the most part, the weaker under the feet of the stronger, in the madness and torment of suffocation from crowd and heat. It was a horrid sight, as they passed one by one,—the still distorted limbs smeared with blood and filth,—to be cast into the sea. Some, still quivering, were laid on the deck to die; salt water thrown on them to revive them, and a little fresh water poured into their mouths. Antonio reminded me of his last night's warning, 'Ya se lo dixé anoche.' He actively employed himself, with his comrade, Sebastian, in attendance on the wretched living beings now released from their confinement below; distributing to them their morning meal of 'farinha,' and their allowance of water, rather more than half a pint to each, which they grasped with inconceivable eagerness, some bending their knees to the deck, to avoid the risk of losing any of the liquid by unsteady footing, their throats, doubtless, parched to the utmost with crying and yelling through the night."

The editor adds: "Language is too poor to express our feelings: we dare not utter them, even if we had words strong enough to convey them. 'Fifty-four crushed and mangled corpses' in one night! Even under British command—even under liberating protection—'fifty-four crushed and mangled corpses within twelve hours, are death's allowance in the hold of a slaver!'"

"Four days afterwards, the prize rejoined the *Cleopatra*, and fifty of the unhappy creatures were trans-shipped; but death will have its food on board a slaver. We spare our readers the horrible details: we leave them to the remorseful contemplation of British patrons of the infernal traffic; but we will give the summary:—"

"As soon as the '*Progresso*' anchored, we were visited by the health-officer, who immediately admitted us to pratique. My friend Mr. Shea, superintendent of the Naval Hospital, also paid us a visit, and I descended with him, for the last time, to the slave-hold. Long accustomed as he has been to scenes of suffering, he was unable to endure a sight, 'surpassing,' he said, 'all he could have conceived of human misery,' and made a hasty retreat. One little girl, crying bitterly, was entangled between the planks, wanting strength to extricate her wasted limbs, till assistance was given her."

"*Friday, June 2.*—Previously to setting out for the village of Wynberg, where I promised myself some repose of body and mind, I paid a visit to Sir John Marshall, on board the '*Isis*,' who welcomed me with his usual kindness; and on my passage back to the shore, I once more called on board the '*Progresso*.' Fourteen corpses, six having been added to the eight who died yesterday, lay piled on deck, to be interred this afternoon on the beach."

But the picture is still incomplete:—

"Their daily allowance of water is about a half a pint in the morning, and the same quantity in the evening, which is as much as can be afforded them."—p. 73.

"They eagerly catch the drippings from the sails after a shower; apply their lips to the wet masts, and crawl to the coops to share the supply placed there for the fowls: I have remarked some of the sick licking the deck when washed with salt water."—p. 61.

Contrast this with the provision made for the slave-trading crew:

“The cabin stores are profuse; lockers filled with ale and porter, barrels of wine, liquors of various sorts; maccaroni, vermicelli, tapioca of the finest kind; cases of English pickles, each containing twelve jars; boxes of cigars; muscatel raisins, tamarinds, almonds, walnuts, &c., &c. The coops on deck are crammed with fowls and ducks, and there are eleven pigs.”

The following indignant language is from the same paper in commenting upon the above.

“One hundred and sixty-three deaths in fifty days! Deaths of horror, torture, and agonizing violence! Deaths of women, children, and men, all in the spring of adolescence: And all occurring contemporaneously with the cold-blooded hesitation and reluctance of Her Majesty’s Government and their legal advisers, to carry into effect the power of British Law against the aiders and abettors of the atrocious system!”

Be it remembered, that it is an actual proof, not only at the bar of the Old Bailey, but at the bar of the House, that British capital and British subjects are to this hour engaged in a similar iniquity. Slavery abolished! It is false. British slave-trading exterminated? It is a lie. There is no other word appropriate to the case; it is a lie—a gross, a palpable, an “enormous” lie. It is proved to be a lie by Zulueta’s trial; it is proved to be a lie by Mr. Forsters’s whitewashing Committee. The work is yet to be done; it *must* be done; and the electors of Great Britain are the parties by whom it must be accomplished. The curse of God will assuredly visit this national guilt, unless the stigma be removed by the prompt and determined voice of our country.”

PARROTS IN AFRICA.

In the Gaboon river, and not far from the mission station, lately established on the banks of that noble stream, there is an island, known by name of Kong Island. Mr. Wilson lately visited this delightful spot. From his journal the following extract is taken:

“In the vicinity of the village there is a stupendous cotton tree, the wide spread and gigantic arms of which have served, time immemorial, as a lodging place, not only for the parrots belonging to this part of the country, but, one might be tempted to believe, for all in Africa. These birds usually spend an hour or more in adjusting themselves in their proper places at night, during which time they keep up such a loud and incessant screaming, that you cannot be heard anywhere in the vicinity without raising the voice considerably above its ordinary pitch. At length they are all quietly seated, when they commence, what very closely resembles a musical concert; this they continue about an hour longer. At regular intervals during the night, they sing out as if they were keeping watch. The natives say the musical concerts have been borrowed from them; and the practice of keeping watch they suppose to have been derived from vessels lying at anchor in the river. These conjectures will not appear improbable to those who are acquainted with the singular aptitude of these birds to catch and imitate the sounds of the human voice. They are never molested; their powers of utterance, in the estimation of the African, are so close an approximation of human speech, that to kill and eat them would be almost equivalent to murder and cannibalism.

LATE FROM THE AFRICAN COAST.

THROUGH the kindness of an officer of the United States ship *Saratoga*, who has just returned to this country in the barque *Bacchus* from Madeira, the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette has received late news from the African coast, with some interesting accounts of the doings there of the United States squadron under the command of Commodore Perry :

On the 4th of December last, three vessels of the squadron—the frigate *Macedonian*, Commodore Perry, sloop *Saratoga*, Commander Tatnall, and sloop *Decatur*, Commander Abbott—met at Monrovia, and, after taking the Governor of Monrovia on board, sailed down the coast with the intention of ascertaining and punishing the particular tribe of Africans who about two years ago murdered the captain and crew of the schooner *Mary Carver*. On the 12th, about sixty or eighty miles below Cape Palmas, the vessels came to anchor about a mile off a town situated in the district known as Bereby—the cables having springs upon them. As soon as the vessels hove to, a white flag was raised upon the shore, and the day following the officers and crews of the vessels to the number of about five hundred, all fully armed, landed in boats. A rude council-house was erected upon the beach, and soon after it was completed the African King and his interpreter came down, attended by a number of his people, all armed. A *palaver* was held, but the answers requested by Commodore PERRY were not given, and the whole conversation was very unsatisfactory. The commodore continuing to press close upon the King his questions concerning the fate of the *Mary Carver* and her crew, the King, the interpreter, and the African people turned and ran towards a neighboring jungle; but before the King had proceeded far, a volley from the American sailors instantly killed him, as well as the interpreter and others of the fugitives.

The natives were armed with good English muskets, and loaded them with copper slugs, nails, and any other missiles they could force into the barrel of the weapon.

The people of the town itself immediately took to the jungle, after the retreat of those who had attended the king, and continued for an hour firing from it upon the Americans, who returned their volleys with interest, and finally advanced upon the town, forced the strong picket fence by which it was surrounded, burnt it to ashes, destroyed their canoes, and then returned to their ships, from which during the continuance of the fight, shells had constantly been thrown into the jungle. The natives had evidently been prepared for battle, for all their women and children had been removed from the town.

On the 15th the boats' crews landed about six miles further down the coast, but while approaching the shore were frequently fired upon by the natives. After landing, five more towns were burnt to ashes, upwards of one hundred canoes were destroyed, and other damage inflicted. In one of these towns the register of the *Mary Carver*, a private letter of the captain of that vessel, and several other papers were found—thus clearly proving that punishment was being inflicted in the right quarter.

After the destruction of these towns the boats returned to the ships, and sail was made about eight miles further down, the white flag being hoisted. A treaty of peace was made with a tribe at this place, and information gained that at least fifty of the natives in the towns above had been killed.

Several of the American sailors were badly wounded but none killed.

A disturbance which had arisen at Cape Palmas was also settled by Commodore Perry. A part of the settlement at Cape Palmas is upon the extreme point of the Cape, and the other part about a mile inland. Between the two is an African settlement, the king of which had forbidden any communication or trade between the two parts of the Cape settlement unless a certain price was paid to him for his rice. After remaining here for two days, the vessels again made sail for Monrovia.

The *Saratoga* sailed from Monrovia on the 6th January for Madeira, where she arrived on the 20th, and sailed again for the Coast on the 26th. Just before she left Monrovia information was received of the death of the Rev. Mr. Sawyer, one of the missionaries stationed about fifty miles below that colony.

The United States brig *Porpoise* was upon the coast about a month before the *Saratoga* sailed, and had gone to the windward for supplies.

Midshipman Law, of the frigate *Macedonian*, returned to this country in the barque *Bacchus*, along with Lieutenant Ferris, who communicates the above information. The health of the squadron is represented as being good.

We have the pleasure of laying before our readers the following interesting letter from Com. Perry, which is important touching all our colonial interests.

U. S. SHIP MACEDONIAN,
CAPE PALMAS, WEST AFRICA, }
December 21st, 1843. }

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit herewith various papers numbered from one to five inclusive, giving detailed accounts of the proceedings of the Squadron under my command, in relation to the arrangement of the difficulties which have so long existed with many of the native tribes inhabiting that part of the Coast of Africa, laying between Cape Mesurado and Cape Lahou.

From the delay in punishing the people of Little Berriby, for the murder of Capt. Farewell and his crew, and the entire destruction of his vessel, they had been led to believe that the occurrence would be passed over without further notice, and this had emboldened them to greater insolence. Hence punishment came upon them when least expected.

In regard to the amount of punishment visited upon these people, there is but one opinion on board ship and on shore, that it was far short of what they deserved; but my instructions enjoined measures of reasonable lenity, and I was myself disposed to such a course. The shedding of blood in the affair was unpremeditated and accidental. The natives commenced the fire, and it is fortunate that no more of them fell.

In the melee King Ben Cracow, and his interpreter were killed, and this would seem a providential result, as both these persons unquestionably took an active part in the massacre of Captain Farewell and his crew.

The known fierceness and treachery of most of the African tribes, made it a measure of necessary prudence to land with a considerable armed force, and the result has shown the propriety of such precaution, as at almost every place we were received by strong bodies of well armed natives, while we noticed great numbers lurking in the skirts of the neighboring woods.

My orders were in all cases to prevent the effusion of blood, and to fire only in self defence.

This act of retributive justice upon the Little Berriby Tribe will furnish an impressive lesson to the people of other towns suspected of piratical acts, while the friendly demonstrations made by me to the tribes not implicated will go far to show that the American Government greatly prefers a pacific intercourse with all nations, however insignificant, to one of strife.

I am happy in believing that the measures detailed in the accompanying papers* will have the effect of establishing, upon a firm and durable basis, a good understanding with all the tribes along the whole coast from Cape Verd to the Equator, and that confidence between the lawful trader and the people at one time suspected of participation in the piracies at Little Berriby, will be restored, and trade, which has been almost entirely suspended, again fall into its former train of profitable results.

It is proper to repeat here what has been more fully mentioned in the documents, that in all my intercourse with the kings and chiefs, I have endeavored to convince them that the American Government will be so ready to notice any wrongs committed upon the natives, by persons sailing under the American flag, as in demanding redress for the aggressions of the natives upon such Americans.

The ships employed in this service, the Macedonian, Saratoga and Decatur, compose a force rarely seen concentrated upon this part of the coast, and when its avowed object in visiting the various towns was to punish those who committed outrages upon the American citizen and to cultivate a good understanding with those who were disposed to be friendly, the natural conviction of the natives has been that the American Government has gone to unexampled trouble and expense in carrying out its determination to protect the right of citizens in this quarter of the world.

In all these measures of no little responsibility and solicitude, I received the most prompt and efficient aid from Capt. Mayo and Commanders Tattall and Abbott, commanding the ships at present in company; and to Governors Roberts and Russworm, I am also much indebted for advice and counsel; particularly am I obliged to Governor Roberts, who accompanied me in this ship during her late cruise, and took part in all the deliberations.

The absolute necessity of the sailing of the Saratoga to-night for Port Praya to replenish her provisions, has obliged me to prepare this communication and the accompanying documents in a very hasty manner in order that they may be sent by her. But I shall take the earliest occasion to transmit duplicates with some additional information including a chart of that part of the coast recently visited by the squadron.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY.

Commanding U. S. Naval Forces,
Western Coast of Africa.

Hon. DAVID HENSHAW,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

*These papers are the notes of minutes of council and palavers held with the natives, which are deemed too voluminous for publication,—ED. MADISONIAN.

NEWS FROM THE COLONIES.

We are yet without any news direct from Gov. Roberts. His last despatches were dated August 10, 1843. We are unable to account for the long delay, but suppose that there has been no vessel coming direct from Monrovia to this country. We should thus be left almost entirely ignorant of what is doing along the coast were it not that occasionally a moreeau of African *on dits* reached us through diverse channels. In an exchange we find the following:

The Norfolk Beacon publishes the following extract of a letter, dated

U. S. SHIP DECATUR, }
Off Cape Palmas, Dec. 21st, 1843. }

“Our ship’s company saved an American missionary and his wife from being murdered, at a place called Cavally, which is 20 miles south of Cape Palmas. Capt. Abbott vacated his cabin for their use. We left them at Palmas; his name is John Payne, a Presbyterian, I believe.”

Some important intelligence respecting the doings of our squadron on that coast will also be found in the preceding pages of our paper.

We are permitted also to present to our readers the following spirit-stirring and interesting epistle, from an officer in one of the vessels attached to the African Squadron, addressed to a lovely and large-minded lady of our city, whose kind and affectionate interest for Liberia has excited our warmest thanks from the days in which she helped to form and inform a mind of no ordinary brilliancy, whose light went out on Afric’s Shores, until this last proof of her kind thoughtfulness for our interests.

We need not ask for the letter a perusal. It will command attention as well by its racy, pleasant style, as by the very exciting facts which it contains.

U. S. SHIP SARATOGA,
AT SEA, January 10, 1844.

WHEN Mrs. ——— paid me the compliment to ask for a letter from Africa, I expected to comply with the request much earlier than this: But our cruise on the coast, though active, was devoid of stirring incident until the last month; and I wished to see more of the colonies before expressing any opinions regarding them to one so well informed upon the subject. The wars are now over; the ship has left the coast for some weeks to recruit at the Canaries; and “though poor the offering be,” the letter shall not longer be delayed.

You will probably have heard of the “palavers,” and fights, and burnings, in which our squadron has lately been engaged; yet the descriptions of a friend may have an interest of their own which will repay you for a perusal.

The frigate and two sloops-of-war went down the coast last month, anchoring first at Sinou to inquire into the facts connected with the killing of an American mate and man. We left our ships with thirteen boats, flags flying, muskets glistening, and the oarsmen pulling the short, regular man-of-war’s stroke. Having landed, an escort of seventy-five marines, with the band playing, proceeded Commodore Perry, Governor Roberts and several other officers (including your humble servant,) to the Methodist

Church where the palaver was held, after a little delay the palaver was opened, evidence taken, and the question so far as regarded the alleged murder, was decided in favor of the Fishmen. Here the matter would have rested, but the colonists did not let pass the opportunity of getting rid of troublesome neighbors. These Fishmen, it seems, had received permission from the Sinou tribe several years ago to settle on their land. Feeble at first, they were friendly and useful to the owners of the soil. But with their numbers their insolence increased, until at length they were able to set their benefactors at defiance. At this time the colonists bought the land from the original owners, subject to the occupation of the Fishmen during good behavior, this lasted but a short time, colonists were murdered, property stolen, and the settlers at Sinou had not strength enough to punish the offenders without aid from Monrovia. Just before our arrival an expedition of eighty persons had strengthened their band, and they determined to drive off their troublesome neighbors. This determination was approved by the Governor, and the day after our palaver was ended, part of the houses were torn down, most of the occupants having already fled for fear of us. On leaving, the Governor gave orders to burn every house if the Fishmen should attempt to re-occupy them. So far as the interests of the Sinou settlement were concerned, it was probably a judicious step.

Sinou was the only place where we found any general dissatisfaction with their lot. Neglected by the Mississippi Society they had for two years been growing weaker in numbers and spirit. But the late expedition gave them renewed courage, and the visit of the Governor and squadron will probably make them contented. Before our arrival the pilot told me that Sinou had not flourished lately, for it had not received any "resistance" from the society. He was brother to the Captain Cooper who once told me that he thought a little brandy was good for the "suggestion."

Leaving Sinou we sailed to Settra Kroo, where another palaver was held on account of an attempt to murder an American Captain. The natives apologized and paid what was demanded for Captain Brown's benefit. The day before we anchored, the Rev Mr. Sawyer was buried, leaving his widow the only white person there. She had determined to remain at her post, believing that they have done so much good already, that it would be wrong to leave.

Doctor Day went with us to Settra Kroo where he will remain until the next spring, employing himself in commercial pursuits and perhaps as teacher and physician to the mission. He had taken very strong grounds, politically, and as a writer in the Liberia Herald, and had made many bitter enemies at Monrovia. I trust that Doctor Lugenbeel will pursue a different course, as he assured me he should. Thus far the colonists are delighted with him, especially the ladies. He presented his letter from ———, and I was happy to show him such civilities as were in my power.

Resuming our sail, we proceeded to Cape Palmas where we found the colonists blockaded by the natives under King Freeman, and all prepared for war. Here of course was another palaver, and we went ashore with nine boats from the frigate and Saratoga, the Decatur having been despatched to bring off the missionaries from Cavally, they being in danger. We had hardly entered the Governor's house when our attention was attracted by a crowd on the beach, a mile off, where, we were informed, a man was drinking "sassy-wood." The commodore went immediately with most of the officers to rescue the man.

On approaching the spot we saw a woman with an infant on her back, walking about wailing bitterly and throwing up her arms in agony. Farther on we met four children from eight to twelve years old, crying loudly as they came towards us, and apparently imploring us to save their father. Beyond them, and as near as she dared go to the crowd, stood a young woman leaning on a staff with the tears trickling down

her cheeks and gazing earnestly at the spot where her husband was suffering. She took no notice of us, but her low moans moved me more than the louder grief of the first. A colonist now came, and said that the man was nearly dead, and we quickened our pace to a fast run. Before any one could reach the spot, however, the man had been put in a canoe and paddled out into a lagoon and all the rest of the party moved towards us. The commodore ordered two of the leaders to be seized and kept prisoners until the sassy-wood man should be brought. This had the desired effect; and in half an hour he came to the Government House followed by a crowd including two or three of his wives and several children, exhibiting very different emotions from those of an hour before, medical remedies were administered to the man successfully, and the next morning he was sent to a neighboring town where he must remain until permitted by the customs of his people to return. Our protégé had been accused of bewitching a man of consequence who died the day before, and was, according to custom, forced to drink a strong decoction of the sassy-wood bark, which is the universally acknowledged test of witchcraft among the natives. It is believed that there is a spirit in the tree, potent in destroying witches and driving out all evil spirits. They believe that the person who takes this decoction will die if guilty and live if innocent; and though few survive the ordeal, accused persons seldom or never object to submit to it, being firmly persuaded of their escape.

We had just returned to the Government House, and were about to sit down to dinner with the Governor who gives the best dinners in the colony, when an alarm gun was heard from Mt. Tubman, and a messenger came in to say that the natives from the interior were attempting to force their way through the settlement to the cape. The marines were ordered to march instantly, and all officers who could be spared were *en route* to Mt. Tubman within three minutes. The Commodore and Governor led on horseback; the flag lieutenant and myself were the only other officers fortunate enough to procure animals. I had a lazy, vicious little donkey, which by dint of pricking with my sword, I kept on a smart trot. The beast threw me twice to pay for my treatment. The rest of the officers and men marched four miles on a sandy road and under the scorching sun. On the way we overtook several colonists armed, and hurrying to the point of danger. Passing by the foot of Mt. Vaughan, we came to Mt. Tubman, ascended a steep conical hill, perhaps 100 feet high and found ourselves on a level space of 100 yards in diameter. In the centre stood a solitary house, and surrounding the plain was a strong picket fence, not more than five feet high, 15 or 16 armed men were on the *qui vive* and the piazza was crowded with women and children. Within the dwelling were some 20 or 25 children, ignorant of danger and in high glee. A blind old man sat apart by the wall, silently grasping his staff with feeble hand, and near him was a sick woman who had been brought in from a farm in the vicinity. The first alarm had driven the whole population to shelter within the stockade. On the side opposite the cape a steep path rose abruptly to the gate. Down this, some 20 yards, lay a native, dead, with an ugly hole in his skull; and in a small path to the right lay another, who had died where he fell, from a bullet wound in the centre of his forehead. The ball had cut the ligature which bound his "gregree" of shells around his head, and the faithless charm was on the ground near him. The flies were already clustering about the dead man's mouth, and I was not unwilling to leave the spot. The natives who had been repulsed, belonged to the Barroky tribe, and it is believed that they, knowing that King Freeman was at variance with the colony, and hearing the guns fired in honor of the Commodore's landing, supposed that hostilities had commenced, and came in to support King Freeman and to plunder.

Returning, some of the party stopped at the mission establishment, but I rode my little donkey into town in time for the dessert. What a yarn I am spinning and not

half done yet! The second day a palaver was held with King Freeman and the other kings and headmen of the tribes in the vicinity, numbering twenty-four. Among these were several men of striking appearance, and there were few who did not bear the stamp of native talent and greatness. One of them was very like Henry Clay, and it is remarkable that one of the chiefs at Sinon not only had a great resemblance to the Kentucky orator both in face and figure, but, when not speaking, he constantly moved about in the palaver house like Mr. Clay in the senate chamber. Yellow Will was the interpreter on this occasion, and was clothed in a damask silk mantle of crimson, trimmed with broad gold lace.

The result of the palaver was an agreement on the part of the natives to recede from the ground they had taken and treat the colonists as before. They had recently doubled the price of rice and other products which the colony depended upon them for, and when the other party refused to give the price, they prohibited all intercourse either by sea or land. They had demanded their children from the missionaries who refused to give them up, and on this point too, the natives receded from their demand. But the Governor was not satisfied; for he had hoped that he could, by the Commodore's assistance, induce King Freeman to move his town, which is now very inconveniently near. The proposition was made openly in the palaver, to purchase his land of King Freeman, but the Commodore took no part whatever in the matter, and it fell to the ground. I have gone more into detail because of your interest concerning the colony. You will not deem me prosy though others might. We are now leaving the colonial territory, and shall have something to say of battles and burnings, with which Miss —— will probably be more interested than with the proceeding dry recital.

You doubtless recollect that about two years since, the Schooner *Mary Carver*, of Salem, was taken and plundered on this coast, and Captain Farwell, of Vassalboro', and his crew were all murdered. He was anchored at Half Berebee, (or Little Berebee) having a cargo worth \$12,000 for the purpose of trading. Though warned that these people were fierce and treacherous, he had great confidence in himself and his flag, and frequently ventured ashore alone. On one of these occasions he was knocked down, tied, and given over to the women and children to torture. After they were tired of sticking thorns in his flesh, he was despatched. Meantime, a large party had been sent on board, to surprise the mate and crew, and take the vessel. In this they fully succeeded. Not a soul on board escaped. They then took part of the goods out, and ran the vessel ashore, where she was effectually plundered. There were five or six towns of Fishmen on the beach, within the distance of twelve miles, all ruled by members of the Cracko family, of whom Ben Cracko, of Half Berebee, was the head. All these towns were implicated in the plot and shared the plunder. It is said also, that the tribe at Rock-Boukir had a share, and were as guilty as any but this did not appear so clearly.

We anchored at this place first, and landed on an open beach, through the surf. All went in safely, but with more or less wetting. On landing, we found a body of men, perhaps fifty in number, drawn up in line. They were armed with muskets, iron war spears, long wooden fish spears, and broad knives. These fellows assumed a martial look, but would have scampered at the first shot. The palaver was held in the "gregree house," under the shelter of a magnificent wide spreading tree. The king denied all participation in the murder or plunder, touching his ears and licking his sword. This I supposed to mean that he had heard of it, but that his sword was free from blood. Others say that he was taking an oath. At any rate, the Commodore and Captain Mayo kissed theirs. The king agreed to go to Half Berebee with us, and actually took passage in the Frigate, probably saving his town, by trusting us.

Dec. 13.—Thirteen armed boats pulled in, and landed eighty marines, and about

one hundred and fifty officers and sailors. These were stationed, facing the town and the woods. Many of the officers went up to the palaver house, a shed erected for the occasion, a few yards outside the town. Five or six headmen and kings came in, and the talk commenced. The interpreter himself, one of the leaders in the outrage, declared that Captain Farwell had killed two natives, and that Cracko, then king, since dead, had killed him in revenge. He denied that any one had assisted, or that the mate and crew had been murdered at all. He said too, that the vessel went ashore and every thing was lost. His lies were most bare-faced, for it is notorious, that a large quantity of goods from the wreck and parts of the vessel, were distributed among these towns, and sold or offered for sale to English merchant vessels. Governor Roberts who conducted the examination on our part, told the fellow that he was lying, and then the Commodore rose and walked toward him, saying that he did not want any more lies. At this moment, a gun was fired from the town (as I have been informed,) and the interpreter started and ran toward a gate of the town. He ran for his life, but lost the race, for Captain Tattnall, a keen sportsman, shot him with his rifle, and he fell dead, a few steps from the gate. One or two officers then seized the king, who was attired in a long calico gown, intending to hold him prisoner, but he left his gown in their hands, and fled like the young man in the Scriptures. Other persons caught and threw him down, but still he struggled fiercely. In the melee, two bayonet wounds were given him, one of which was mortal. The natives ran in every direction, and many shots were fired, notwithstanding the Commodore's orders to refrain. An attack upon the town, was then ordered, and made. Within ten minutes, the palisades were cut through, and the houses all in flames. Not a native remained in the town; even an old man apparently ninety years of age, had been carried out into the woods behind. A party of Saratogas had passed through the town, and one of the men seeing this poor old creature move, fired at him and fortunately missed. On approaching the miserable object, he held up his hands in supplication. They brought him food, placed him in a more sheltered spot, and left him. There were many musket shots fired at us from the woods, during the time we remained on shore. One man only was wounded, by a copper slug, while the enemy lost eight or ten, according to the account of the natives. Early in the fight, I looked round, for somebody to shoot, and saw only a boy of sixteen, within gun shot. I took deliberate aim at the scamp, but could not find the heart to fire; and besides, I hoped to shoot a full grown man. Fate, however, was adverse, and during the whole day, I did not even bag a boy.

Two days afterwards we landed at a place, ten or twelve miles below, Half Berebee, the natives firing upon the boats as they came in; themselves being concealed by the bushes. The first boat's crew and marines ashore, charged the woods and drove off the enemy, who might have hurt some of us otherwise. All being landed, we attacked and burnt the nearest town, then marched down the beach, probably two miles, and burnt a second. Then returning, we passed the first about a mile, and burnt another, with a sweet little hamlet of three houses, and then went to dinner. After emptying our baskets, the forces proceeded up the beach some three miles, and burnt the last. These towns contained from fifty to one hundred houses each, neatly built of wicker-work, and thatched with palmetto. It was a pretty sight to see the flames run up the conical roof, and meeting at the apex, whirl themselves fiercely into the darkened air.

The five large towns were all well built and surrounded by high palisades bound together with bamboo thongs. The hamlet was enclosed in an impervious hedge of lime with gates in front and rear; and its shade tree in the centre. It was doubtless the property of one family, and almost deserved to be spared for its beauty. Our party were much exposed during the whole of this day; for the woods came down almost to

the water's edge, and we were constantly exposed to an invisible enemy. The marches and counter marches were made upon the beach. The part next the water was kept hard by the action of the waves, which as they rolled in, went far beyond our track, often wetting us to the knee. The sand higher up the beach, was dry and loose, making it difficult to walk through it. So we took the lower side, and there made our amphibious tramp. The men marched at least, twelve miles, that day, besides making short excursions round the towns destroyed, and charges into the bush; and this, while carrying heavy muskets and perhaps cutlasses or pistols.

It was the Commodore's orders to destroy property, but spare life. And it is said, that only four were killed of the enemy, while two of our men were wounded, one mortally. Many cattle were killed and several canoes taken or cut to pieces; to say nothing of the numerous curiosities taken, which will surfeit the United States on our return.

Miss —— will be interested to know, that in a writing desk found at one of the towns, was a love-letter, addressed to Captain Robert MacFarland, jr., postmarked Castine, Me., February 18, 1838, and written in a beautiful hand. The contents may not be told, for it would be divulging the secrets of a sailor and a lady. How the letter came to be in Africa, is the mystery.

One of the accompaniments of each day, was the appearance of flocks of vultures in the air, which wheeled heavily and slowly over our heads. It made me shudder to think that their appearance might portend the death of some of us. I am sorry to lessen the romance of the incident, by adding, that my vultures were only turkey buzzards, and that they would as soon eat a cow as a Christian. Enough of battles has been told, and I will close the page by saying, that the excitement was charming. The war bells, drums and war horns of the natives were continually sounding. The cracking of musketry, the occasional heavy guns from the ships, and the blazing towns were stirring to the spirit, and, with the other incidents, made that day worth a year of ordinary life.

And now, by your leave, I will say something of the colony, as it appears to me, who have no particular interest in the matter. I have been often into the houses of the poor as well as the richer inhabitants. Have talked with the new emigrant and old colonists; have seen poverty and sickness in town and country. They exist in Liberia in a greater degree than in America. It is idle to say that all are prosperous or happy. Industry, economy, patience and temperance are as indispensable here, as elsewhere. Without them, little can be done, but with them, I do solemnly believe that the colored man is far, very far better situated in Africa than in any part of America. I am much mistaken if one in twenty of the colonists who have been here two years, could be induced in any way, to relinquish Africa, and return, to spend their lives in America. Here they are the equals of the whites, and they feel the advantages of it.

So much for the conclusion, now for some disjointed remarks upon the particular points.

First, the great drawback upon the colony, is in the character of the emigrants. They are generally slaves, who have never been taught to take care of themselves. Their clothes and food have been provided by others, and furnished without a thought on their part. In sickness, others have nursed them, and in health, they take no more care of themselves, than so many children, and these people you send here, make them free, and preach industry and other virtues to them. What is the result? If they can get enough to eat, they will not work. If the Society furnishes food, well; if not, they often rather beg or steal, than work. Depend upon it, there are very many of this character in the colony. One free colored person who has accumu-

lated something in America, is worth ten slaves, who have been liberated, to send out here. And here let me say, that there are ninety or one hundred colored men on board the different vessels of the squadron. All these are young men, free, and able to take care of themselves. I believe that half these men would take their discharge and colonize, if permitted. Should they be backward, it would only be necessary to give them liberty to go on shore once or twice, and my word for it, they would fall in love, and then it would all be over with them. It is only necessary for the Secretary to direct or permit the discharge of such as ask for it, and a considerable number of valuable citizens would be given the colony.

Sailors are much wanted for the colonial vessels. The vacancies thus made in our ships, may be filled with Croomer, who are able to do the heavy work on board, and to bear exposure much better than any of our men. Fifty of the colored men from our ships would be worth more than three hundred liberated slaves, and would cost the Society nothing, except the trouble of procuring an order from the Secretary, to the Commodore. Governor Roberts agrees with me upon this subject. Our fellows are from the Northern States, and might induce other northerners to come out.

In Governor Roberts, the colony have a man, whose place cannot be supplied. I have seen him at his own table; on board ship for weeks, as a guest; presiding in court as judge; in council with the natives, and on the battle field. But I never saw him lose his self possession for a moment. He was always dignified, gentlemanly, sensible and firm. He is universally respected in the squadron.

Probably the Society expects to make sugar with profit to the colony. It will not be for many years yet.

First, it is necessary to have a large capital, to make it to advantage. Cattle for cultivation, a steam engine for grinding, large buildings for boiling and keeping the sugar till ready for market, are necessary elsewhere, and why not here. It is difficult to get cattle which will live; for all stock introduced, even from other parts of the coast, must go through the acclimating fever. The steam engine is expensive, and if it should get out of order, would need capable mechanics to repair it. The buildings, if of stone, would be expensive, if of wood, the ants and the climate would soon finish them. When we can find an individual who will invest \$20,000, and give the business his undivided attention, it may do to hope for success, but not before. There is an abundance of good sugar land, and I have seen some flourishing cane. To raise this, however, labor is necessary, and it is not to be had. The natives dislike working among the cane, for it pricks them, and a gum from it irritates the skin. The laboring part of the colonists must be paid from 50 to 75 cents per day, and will not do half the work of a West Indian slave. Coffee planting bids fairer to succeed, though thus far there appears to have been raised only enough for specimens. The trees are flourishing, and the berry fine. The natives will do most of the work; of course, it will be done cheap. If the Society would plant lime hedges on some of their land, and encourage individuals to do the same, an important step would be made in the prosperity of the colony. Any quantity of stock might be raised and sold, if it could be protected from the wild beasts and thieves. A lime hedge will keep out both. The colony must advance and succeed under any circumstances; but it will do so much more surely and rapidly, if the Society will send out free colored persons instead of just liberated slaves, and substitute the lime hedge for the fences, which will not last more than two or three years. If the Society thinks the sugar planting in a flourishing state, it is greatly mistaken. I am misinformed if every pound of sugar made in Liberia, hitherto, has not cost the maker at least twenty cents. And I do know, that the public plantation at Bushrod Island, is in a wretched state—the cane not weeded, the shed used as a sugar house, dilapidated and containing a great quantity of

rubbish, and the boilers exposed to the weather, and full of water. There is more pressing need of public funds elsewhere, and therefore, the sugar making is neglected. Vegetables may be raised in any quantities with great ease. Fish abound in the rivers and sea. Wild deer are plenty in the woods. Cattle, pigs, and poultry may be easily raised, but not so easily protected from the leopards and thieves until the *lime* hedge becomes general. I wish to see the colony prosper, and fully believe that it is so firmly established, that it will do well to tell the truth plainly, and without disguise. In this connection let me remark, that the prospect for raising cotton, is discouraging. Judge Benedict told me that he had a fine field of cotton growing, when all at once, it became blasted and worthless, and he (an old cotton planter) despairs of success in that branch.

The natives on the coast as far as I have been able to judge, are shrewd, intelligent, and by no means, so much in need of sympathy, as is generally supposed. The women raise plenty of rice and cassada. The men catch plenty of fish, and it is a proverb that if a civilized white man wishes to make a good bargain with a native, he must employ another native to trade for him. I might easily inflict another sheet of crooked chirography upon your patience, but "will some mercy shew."

Believe me, very truly, your friend,

In the last number of the *Repository* and also in a number of the daily and weekly newspapers in different parts of the country, we published "a Call to the devoted friends of Colonization." The answers to it have not been as *numerous* as we anticipated, or as the case demanded. We have however had the pleasure of receiving the following letter, containing ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, being the SECOND of the kind which we have received. We insert it in this place because the sentiments it contains are at once honorable to their author and encouraging to us. And we accompany it, with the hope that many of our friends may by it be stimulated to do likewise.

TRUMANSBURG, TOMPKINS COUNTY, N. Y.

February 28th, 1844.

Rev. WM. McLAIN,

Dear Sir: In answer to your call in your circular of the 5th inst, I have the pleasure of forwarding to you for the benefit of the American Colonization Society, one hundred dollars in a draft at the head of this sheet; which I should prefer to have applied to the purchase of those places on the Coast of Africa between Cape Mount and Cape Palmas, from which the slave trade is still carried on. I consider it very important to the peace and honor of our colonies, that the nefarious traffic in slaves on the *whole* Coast of Africa be abolished as soon as possible; but more *especially* so within the limits of the two Capes before mentioned. If however the Executive Committee should think they can apply my donation to a *better* use, they are at liberty to do it. A few days since I forwarded to the member of Congress from this District, the Hon. Amasa Dana, a memorial to Congress signed by 130 of our citizens, asking the aid of Congress for our Society, and through it, the suppression of the slave trade. I took the liberty to refer Mr. Dana to you for any information concerning our Colonies, he might need in case it should fall to his lot to make a report on the memorial. I

think we ought to constantly *importune* Congress until we obtain its patronage and protection. If you will send me a few extra numbers of the African Repository from time to time—selecting such as contain some interesting *address* or report, exhibiting the principles and benefits of our Society, I will put them into the hands of some of my friends and thereby endeavor to convert them into friends and supporters of our Society. I pray that our Heavenly Father will guide, support and cheer you and all the faithful officers of this most benevolent institution, in the discharge of the difficult and arduous duties of your stations, and that you and they may never become weary in well doing, for in due time you shall reap a rich reward for your labors of love, if you faint not. I intend (by the help and blessing of God) to *continue* my contributions and my poor prayers for the *complete* success of the American Colonization Society, through whose instrumentality, *chiefly*, I look for the glorious day when not a single slave ship shall float upon the ocean, and when “Ethiopia shall soon stretch forth her hands to God.”

Your friend and co-worker in the good cause of Colonization,

HERMON CAMP.

ANOTHER URGENT CALL.

THAT our friends may understand the circumstances in which we are placed, and the appeals that are often made to us, we lay before them the following letter from one of the most respectable clergymen in the State of Virginia. It is not necessary for us to add any thing to the statements it contains. We cannot send these people without *means*. It will cost at the very lowest calculation, *five hundred dollars* to remove them to the colony and sustain them six months. Are there not some *five* individuals who will read this, who are *able* to appropriate one hundred dollars each for this purpose, and who are *willing*; and who cannot in any other way accomplish the same amount of good with the same sum of money? And if this number cannot be found, cannot the deficiency be made up by others giving *fifty*, or *twenty-five*, or *ten* dollars each for this purpose?

• • • • Va., January 27th, 1844.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—I have belonging to me, two families of servants, whom I am anxious to emancipate, if, by any means, I can settle them in Liberia.

The duties of the holy ministry with which, I trust, God has charged me, render me utterly unfit to be a faithful Christian master, and incline me to desire this step for the benefit of my own highest interests and those of my sacred office. At the same time I feel bound to consult the best good of my servants, and in releasing them from my care, to place them in a situation where the blessings of freedom may *really* be enjoyed. This, I am very sure, cannot be found in our own country, and I am therefore determined not to free them, unless they can be sent to Africa. My own means, I find, are not sufficient to accomplish this object, and I am anxious to avail myself of the aid which the Colonization Society may afford. Will you be kind enough to inform me whether I can rely at all upon their assistance, and to what extent? There are in one of the families, a father and mother, and four children, the eldest of whom is a girl of sixteen. The other consists of a man and his wife and two small children, making *ten* in all. They are

willing to go, as they have relatives already settled in the colony, (from whom, by the way, my sister-in-law, has received satisfactory accounts,) and I must also add, that they are all servants of good character. Will you let me know as early as possible, whether the Society are able and willing to send them? and if so, please inform me at what time an opportunity will probably present itself. Mrs. ——— desires me to assure you of her kindest remembrances; and accept also, dear sir, the high esteem of,

Yours very respectfully,

In a subsequent letter he gives the following additional particulars:

——— February, 23, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,— * * * * I know not that I am able to say any thing more than I have already expressed about their wish to go. They are contented in their present situation, where they are well taken care of, and some persuasions were necessary to gain their entire consent to the proposed measure. I felt it right to gain this first, before I took any step in the matter, for it is *my wish*, not theirs, which induces me to part with them. They should not be sent, however, against their will. As to their character, I think I can say it is excellent. One of the men is a consistent communicant in the Baptist Church. The other bears an irreproachable character, and so do their wives. They are the best servants I own. Nothing, I am sure, but a sense of the duty I owe to them, and the more sacred duties of my momentous office, could ever have led me to desire their emigration. They are now employed on a farm, in which occupation, they were brought up. One of the men, however, is a smart man, and could easily learn any trade whatever. The other is too old to be any thing else than a farmer. The wife of one of them, the oldest, is sickly, but I think, a warmer climate may do her good. The other woman is strong and healthy. I don't know that I have said as much as I might, about them, but these facts are sufficient, I hope, to set before you, the real state of things.

I hope the committee will feel themselves disposed to comply with my wishes in this matter. I can assure them that, were I able to do so, I should certainly send them out at my own expense.

Very sincerely, yours,

Such is the case which this good man presents to us. As such we lay it before our friends and the public. The writer of these letters is an acquaintance and personal friend of ours, and we would do as much to gratify his benevolent wishes, as those of any other man; but “we cannot make brick without straw.” We should like to be able to send this interesting company of people to the colony in our next expedition from Norfolk. Their character is good. They are in the prime of life, and they are *farmers*, the very kind of colonists we want. Shall they have the privilege of going to that land where they can enjoy *real freedom*; where their children shall all be educated; and where they may be a blessing to their race? We would ask this question—

TO PASTORS OF CHURCHES. One of your number speaks to you here.

You can sympathise with him. Will you not preach a sermon for him—and stir up your hearers to contribute of their substance to aid him in carrying out his *liberal* designs?

TO THE PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF OUR AUXILIARY SOCIETIES. Is not this a case that will warrant you in calling a special meeting of your society? Will it not abundantly reward you for making the most zealous efforts to obtain subscriptions from every citizen of your town, or neighborhood?

TO ALL CHRISTIAN LADIES. In every good work they have always been found in the front rank. Is not this an appeal that will justify them in performing the self-denying labor of soliciting donations? Who can accomplish this work so cheerfully, or so acceptably as they? Let every lady then who reads this, resolve that she will have some share in achieving this desirable object!

TO THE RICH AND TO THE POOR. Think of the sacrifice which this Minister is willing to make; think of the vast amount of good which may result from it; and then *calculate* how much you ought to give! Does not this great cause demand something at your hand?

TO ALL WHO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. This case lays a claim to your high and kind regard. It appeals to you *personally*; it appeals to you as citizens of a free and happy country; it appeals to you as friends of the gospel and of civilization. Here is a work of good to be performed, holy in its character, certain and glorious in its results! You shall never regret any sympathy you may lend it. "The liberal soul shall be made fat." "He that watereth shall be watered again."

We will reserve for this purpose any donations that may be sent us, and will engage to send the company and settle them in the colony as soon as the necessary amount is received; and then to inform their patrons of the fact.

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society:

W. McLAIN.

WASHINGTON CITY, 8th March, 1844.

EXPEDITION FOR LIBERIA.

THE Brig "Lime Rock" sailed from New Orleans for Monrovia and Sinou, Liberia, on the 10th inst. She had on board ninety-two emigrants for the colony; of whom seventy-two were sent out by Dr. S. Duncan and Rev. Z. Butler, of Mississippi; fourteen were from Flemingsburg, Ky., liberated by the will of the late Thomas Wallace; and six were from the city of New Orleans.

They were well supplied with provisions and all the articles necessary for their comfort and happiness in the colony. A correspondent writing from New Orleans, under date 9th inst., says: "I have this day visited the Lime Rock as she lies at anchor in the river just below the city, in

company with three clergymen, each of whom performed part of some of the most interesting exercises I have had the pleasure of witnessing for some time past. The emigrants appeared very well, and seemed quite happy in anticipation of going. They are well furnished with births below, and a temporary house on deck, covering nearly the whole of the deck. They are well provided with water and provisions, and certainly have every prospect of a safe and comfortable voyage."

ANOTHER EXPEDITION.

WE are very earnestly importuned to send a vessel from here this spring, with emigrants for the colony. Nothing but the want of means prevents our doing it immediately. Will our friends bear this in mind? If we can raise the funds the vessel will probably sail about the last of May.

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY,

FROM 24th FEBRUARY, TO 20th MARCH, 1844.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Amherst, Rev. H. Humphrey, D. D. - - - - - 10 00 10 00

CONNECTICUT.

Hartford, Gaius Lyman, Esq., last payment on \$100 subscription, 20 00 20 00

NEW YORK.

Trumansburg, Hermon Camp, Esq. - - - - - 100 00

New York City, H. Sheldon, Esq., balance of his subscription of \$2,000 - - - - - 500 00

600 00

VIRGINIA.

Norfolk, Mr. & Mrs. Westray, ' - - - - - 10 00

Portsmouth, Mrs. P. Griffith, per Rev. J. H. Wingfield, - - - 5 00

Gordonsdale, Robert E. Peyton, Esq. - - - - - 26 95

41 95

OHIO.

Cincinnati, Griffin Taylor, Esq. - - - - - 100 00

Warren, Mrs. Nancy Perkins, annual subscription for 1843 and 1844. - - - - - 20 00

New Athens, Colonization Society, per Rev. W. Wallace, - - - 24 00

Bolivar, David Yant, Esq. - - - - - 3 50

147 50

PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia, Elliot Cresson, Esq., balance of subscriptions made to him in Selby, England. - - - - - 96 00

96 00

Total Contributions, - - - - -

\$915 45

FOR REPOSITORY.

NEW YORK.—*Caroline*, Dr. Joseph Speed, to 1 Jan. '46, \$5 00.

New York City, subscribers per Rev. J. H. Eaton, \$60 - - - 65 00

OHIO.—*Oxford*, Prof. J. McArthur, to 1 Jan. '44, \$3 00. *Bolivar*, David Yant, to 1 Jan. '45, \$1 50. - - - 4 50

VIRGINIA.—*Abingdon*, Col. John M. Preston, to 1 Jan. '45, - - - 5 00

TENNESSEE.—*Blountville*, Saml. Rhea, to 1 Jan. '45, \$3. *Lebanon*, T. C. Anderson, to 1 Jan. '46, \$5. - - - 8 00

MARYLAND.—*Baltimore*, From subscribers by Saml. Young, - - - 26 00

FLORIDA.—*Talahasse*, F. Eppes, to 1 Jan. '44, - - - 5 00

Total for Repository, - - - - -

\$113 50

Total, - - - - -

\$1,028 95

